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of the Willises, or any of the above mentioned families, and *all* students of Virginia genealogy would be repaid by owning this handy little volume.

THE FIRST REPUBLIC IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography:

In your January number of this year, I find a note by Dr. Alexander Brown, intended as a reply to my review in the October number of his "First Republic in America." I am aware of your rule to decline continued discussions in your paper, and I yield to it the more readily, as Dr. Brown, in his note, has added nothing to substantiate the statements in his book, except some groundless assertions; such for instance as his statement, that in the passage I quoted from Hamor, the reference was to Powhatan, and not to Ratcliffe. When an author publishes to the world what purports to be history, and especially when he undertakes to discredit previously accepted history, it is the right of any one to examine the authorities on which he relies, and the conclusions he announces. This I did frankly in my review, citing reliable authority for my positions when I differed with Dr. Brown. I am entirely willing that my criticism of his book shall rest on the authorities I cited, and that the reader shall judge whether I am "trying to perpetuate the wrong" as charged, or to vindicate the truth, of our early history, which Dr. Brown claims he alone has undertaken.

In one matter Dr. Brown has excited my curiosity, without gratifying it. At page 94 of his book, he puts into the mouth of Geo. Percy a statement of the alleged misconduct of Smith, in that he won to his side the men who came with the ship of Gates, in his contest for the retention of his authority as president until the arrival of the new charter. I could not find this in any published writings of Percy, and called on Dr. Brown to state his authority for the quotation. He replies that Percy's 'Relacyon' of his service as president, is not mutilated, as Mr. Neill supposed, but is complete, and that his quotation is taken therefrom, and he refers to the note at the bottom of page 96 of his book. I have examined this, and find it refers to certain pages of the Genesis, and there is nothing at those pages to show that this 'Relacyon' exists in full, nor to verify the claimed extract. This 'Relacyon,' if recovered in full, would be a valuable contribution to Virginia History; I therefore request, that Dr. Brown furnish this Magazine with a copy, stating his authority for the text, and I am quite sure it will be published.

W. W. HENRY.

January 23, 1899.